

Reading: 1 Samuel 1:9-28

*“For this child I prayed ... He will belong to the Lord” (1 Sam 1:27,28)*

God had only one Son and He sent Him as a missionary-martyr to this world. If you have two children, you have one too many to give away to serve the Lord! Jesus was most precious to the Father (Prov 8:27-30). The Father was ready to sacrifice His daily delight for the sake of the “sons of men” because He “so loved the world” (Jn 3:16). There was nothing more precious to God than His Son. But He spared Him not! (Rom 8:32). Can we do less to save our fellowmen?

Isaac (meaning “laughter”) was the daily delight of the old couple Abraham and Sarah. When God demanded that they sacrifice their sole joy, Abraham hesitated not a moment because he loved God more than he loved his son. Abraham was rewarded. Abraham got back his “laughter,” now sanctified. Anyone who leaves anything for the sake of the Gospel shall receive a hundredfold (Mt 19:29).

God told Moses, “Set apart for me all the firstborn; it is Mine” (Ex 13:2). If only Christian parents the world over had given away their firstborn to serve God, the world would have been evangelised long long ago. We are two boys to our parents and I am the eldest. My parents were largely responsible for my becoming a missionary. I stepped out to serve God fulltime in 1975 on the 3rd of this month.

You ask, “How can I send my son or daughter to the ministry without a call?” Did you get a call through a vision or a voice to make him or her a doctor or an engineer? Why this partiality when it comes to God and His Kingdom? There was never a time in the history of the Church when there were too many missionaries or preachers (Mt 9:37). Send that brilliant child, or the one who earns well, to God’s work.

Zacharias and Elizabeth were childless till their old age. When God blessed them with a baby boy they let him “go” to make a people ready for Christ’s first coming (Lk 1:7,13,14,17,80). Shall we let our children “go” all over the world to prepare people for His Second Coming? Let there be a missionary going forth from each family! Without the cooperation of and encouragement from parents and elders, we will not have enough youth force for frontier evangelism. Today is World Elders Day!



*Give of thy sons to bear the message glorious;  
Give of thy wealth to spend them on their way;  
Pour out thy soul for them in prayer victorious;  
And all thou spendest Jesus will repay!*

*(Mary Ann Thomson, 1834-1923,  
composed while watching her child suffering from typhoid)*

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father,

We worship You as the God of love. Your sacrificial love is incomprehensible. What a love it is that You gave away Your only begotten Son for us! What a love it is that You let Him die for us as a sacrifice for our redemption! What a love it is that He died for us while we were yet sinners and Your enemies! What a love it is that You forsook Him for a moment on the Cross when He became sin for us! What a love it is that You sent us the Holy Spirit as Another Helper in the place of Your Son! What a love it is that You have seated Your Son on Your right hand to intercede for us! What a love it is that You have made us Your children and heirs of Your Kingdom! Praise be to Your holy Name!

O Lord God, we thank You for choosing us as a holy nation and a royal priesthood. We thank You for calling us to proclaim Your mercies. We thank You for committing the task of world evangelism into our hands. We thank You for filling us with Your Holy Spirit to be Your bold witnesses. Forgive us, Lord, for our slackness in cooperating with Your purposes. Forgive us our selfishness which overrules Your Kingdom concerns. Forgive us our slothfulness that paralyses our feet lest we go forth with the Gospel.

Dear Lord, we thank You for Your Son who sent forth His apostles all over the world. Thank You for Apostle Thomas who came to our Land of India. We are ashamed that even after over two thousand years, most of our Nation is unevangelised. It's our fault, Lord. It's our negligence, Lord. It's our failure, Lord. Our delay has caused millions of souls to live and die in darkness. Help us speed up the work lest the harvest is further wasted.

Thank You, O Lord of the Harvest, for the Missions You have raised in our country. We pray for the 60,000 plus Missionaries working in unreached fields. May Your Spirit empower and encourage them each morning as they confront Satan to snatch souls from his clutches. Help us not to stop with praying and giving, but send our children to join the frontliners. Let each family send forth at least one son or daughter to reap this endtime harvest. Send us another revival to make our Churches missionary-minded. Restore unto us, O God, the wasted years. Let apostolic days return! Let us never settle until each village has a Church, each people group is evangelised, and each man and woman gets a fair chance to hear the Gospel. In Jesus' Name, Amen!

*(Jn 1:12; 3:16; 4:35,36; 14:16; Rom 5:8; 2 Cor 5:21; Mt 27:46; 28:19,20;  
1 Jn 2:1,2; 1 Pet 2:9; Acts 1:8; 26:18; Lk 10:2)*